

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for generating and maintaining a data resource, comprising a repository for the data resource, access means for allowing a plurality of users to amend
5 the data resource, moderation means for recording amendments made to the resource and moderation inputs relating to such amendments, and rating means for generating and storing a moderation value for each amendment, the moderation value being determined by such moderation inputs.
- 10 2. Apparatus according to claim 1 comprising means for input of user-generated data, assessing qualities of amendments made by other users.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising an amendment moderation
- value generation means, comprising means for determining the validity and consistency of
15 amendments, and means for generating a moderation input from the results of such determination.
4. Apparatus according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, comprising means for
generating a user moderation value for each user of the system in respect of inputs made
20 by that user; a user moderation value store arranged to store the user moderation values, and means for retrieval of user moderation values from the user moderation value store.
5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, comprising means for storing a
quality rating for each resource, and wherein the rating means retrieves the quality rating
25 for a modified resource and generates moderation values in accordance with the retrieved quality rating.
6. Apparatus according to claim 5, comprising analysis means for identifying
reference links between resources, and means for generating, for each resource, the said
30 quality rating in accordance with the number of such links referring to the resource.
7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising amendment
storage means for storing amendment proposals prior to implementation, means for
receiving quality values relating to the amendment proposals, and means for amending

the data resource in accordance with the amendment proposal when the quality values pass a predetermined upper threshold.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising means for deleting amendment proposals for which the quality values pass below a lower threshold, or which have failed to pass the upper threshold within a predetermined period.

9. A method of generating and maintaining a data resource, by recording amendments made to the resource, generating moderation inputs relating to such amendments, and generating a moderation value for each amendment, the moderation value being determined by the said moderation inputs.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein user-generated data is recorded, assessing qualities of amendments made by other users.

11. A method according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the validity and consistency of amendments are determined, and a moderation value is generated from the results of such determination.

12. A method according to claim 9, claim 10 or claim 11, wherein a user moderation value is generated in respect of each user in respect of inputs made by that user; and the user moderation value is stored for subsequent retrieval.

13. A method according to claim 9, 10, 11 or 12, wherein a quality rating is stored for each resource, and wherein moderation values are generated in accordance with the retrieved quality rating.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein reference links between resources are identified, and the said quality rating for each resource is generated in accordance with the number of such links referring to the resource.

15. A method according to claim 9, claim 10, claim 11, claim 12, claim 13 or claim 14, wherein a quality value is generated relating to an amendment proposal, and the data resource is amended in accordance with the amendment proposal when the quality value passes a predetermined upper threshold.

16. A method according to claim 15. Wherein the predetermined threshold is set at different values for additions to, and deletions from, the data resource.
- 5 17. A method according to claim 15 or 16, wherein amendment proposals for which the quality values pass below a lower threshold, or which have failed to pass the upper threshold within a predetermined period are deleted.
- 10 18. A computer program product or suite of such products for use with one or more computers to carry out the method of any one of claims 9 to 17, or to provide any of the apparatus as set out in any one of claims 1 to 8.